

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Board

14 January 2015

Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 14 January 2015 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were Sue MiHalo, John Morris, Bob Cattani, Jim Biancotti, Tom Clouser, and Paul Panther.

Jim moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 10 December 2014, and Bob seconded. The motion carried.

Sue asked for suggestions for goal for 2015. Bob suggested the Dark Skies Initiative, but someone needs to lead the project. Another suggestion was to revisit the neighboring industries to the east, and make contacts when complaints arise. Jim said he would ask at Amrox.

For a replacement board member with Sharon leaving, Sue suggested Susan Adams, a retired environmental law professor. The problem may be that she wants to be free to travel for several months.

Regarding the high speed rail EIS, Sue contacted Liz Pelloso of USEPA today, and the Railroad Administration and Michigan DOT were surprised and not very happy given the comments, which were of a similar nature across the affected counties in Indiana. The proponents are meeting with National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife on 4 February 2015. USEPA is not likely to require that the Tier 1 EIS be rewritten, but the comments will be included as an appendix to the Tier 2 document.

Jim did not have an update on the MS4 exemption, but Tom revealed that there is a Stormwater Drainage Conference 12 February 2015 in West Lafayette. John moved and Bob seconded that an member of the ODEAB be able to use the funds necessary to attend this conference (\$60 for government, \$130 for public).

There is no news for the septic task force. Sue suggested that the residents be alerted to the dangers to our septic systems from microfibers.

For Recycling, Tom announced that when the waste contract is renewed in June, there may be a push to go to every two weeks for recycling. This would save \$18,000 per year for the residents, but this works out to only about \$30 per household. It was suggested that larger bins for recycling be distributed if this is accepted. Currently, most households have 95 gallon trash bins and 60 gallon recycle bins. The fear is that in two weeks, the current bins would overflow, and potential recycling material would be discarded in the regular trash. It was requested that the ODEAB be allowed to see the RFP before it is submitted for bids.

Bob moved to adjourn, John seconded, and the motion was approved at 6:17 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.